Removed of liquor shops on National Highways

434. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced the removal of liquor shops located on national highways, as one of the measures to prevent traffic accidents;

(b) whether the liquor shops have been removed and to what extent this has resulted in the reduction of accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government have not made any policy announcement for removal of liquor shops located on National Highways. However, in August, 1992 the State Governments were addressed, stating that they may like to review their policy with regard to the presence of liquor wending shops on the National Highways and curb the issuing of licences for liquor shops on National Highways so as to help in reducing the incidents of drunken driving and resultant accidents. Details of action taken by States in this regard are readily not available.

Representation given by employees of Cochin Ship building Yard

435. SHRI O. RAJGOPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation or memorandum from a section of the employees of the Cochin Ship building Yard regarding the continued neglect of the ship building facilities available at Cochin, if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that ship building activity at Cochin has come to a virtual closure, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what work relating to ship building is going on at Cochin, the details thereof and whether it is sufficient keeping in view the enormous money invested there and the number of employees employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government have received representation from a section of the employees of Cochin Shipyard regarding revision of price of tankers under construction in Cochin Shipyard Limited, capital restructuring of Cochin Shipyard Limited and the revision of pricing formula. Government is already aware of all these issues and steps are under consideration at different stages for resolving these issues.

(b) and (c) Due to huge cost-price gap, Cochin Shipyard Limited has not taken up construction of the 3rd tanker ordered by the Shipping Corporation of India are awaiting revision of price of this vessel. The revision of the price of the 3rd tanker (86000 DWT crude oil tanker) alongwith the prices of two other similar vessels already delivered to Shipping Corporation of India, is under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of expert Committee for Merchant Shipping Act

436. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of experts was appointed to study further amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the Committee; and

(c) by when the Committee's report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In February 1991, the Government of India had constituted a Committee of Officials and Experts to study and review the whole

Merchant Shipping Act with reference to contemporary and future developments. The Committee submitted its report in April, 1992.

Implementation of pension scheme in D.T.C.

437. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Management of the Delhi Transport Corporation have failed to implement the Pension Scheme despite the union Cabinet's approval;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the worker's union of the Corporation have agitated against decision; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are certain pre-requirements to implementation of Pension Scheme in Delhi Transport Corporation which are being completed by LIC and DTC in consultation with each other.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Purchase of oil tankers from South Korea by S.C.I.

438. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shipping Corporation of India have entered into a deal with two South Korea Companies for purchase of four Suez max oil tankers for $262.1 million;

(b) if so, what are the details of the deal; and

(c) whether current market rates for such tankers were taken into consideration while taking the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India has signed contracts with M/s. Samsung and M/s. Hyundai, both of South Korea, for the construction and delivery of 4 Suez tankers of 1,40,000 DWT each. The contractual price per vessel is US $ 65.53 million and hence the total investment involved works out to US $ 262.12 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Financial assistance to protect expressway in Tamil Nadu

439. SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the very dangerous condition of Ennore expressway at Palahithottikuppam in Tiruvottiyur near Madras;

(b) if so, whether any expert team has been sent to study the condtion; if so, what is its finding;

(c) what steps have since been taken to prevent further sea erosion and to stop damage to expressway;

(d) whether any financial grant has been given to Government of Tamil Nadu to protect the expressway;

(e) how much money has already been spent on this work; what will the estimated cost to complete this whole work;

(f) how much time will it take to complete this work; and

(g) whether any permament arrangement to provide lights at night has been taken and if not the reasons therefor?